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# Ivy

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Ivy

by

Collin Jeremy Schuster

B.A., University of Colorado, 2004

A thesis submitted to the

Faculty of the Graduate School of the

University of Colorado in partial fulfillment

of the requirement for the degree of

Master of Fine Arts

Department of English

2012

This thesis entitled:  
Ivy  
written by Collin Jeremy Schuster  
has been approved for the Department of English

---

Noah Eli Gordon

---

Ruth Ellen Kocher

Date\_\_\_\_\_

The final copy of this thesis has been examined by the signatories, and we  
Find that both the content and the form meet acceptable presentation standards  
Of scholarly work in the above mentioned discipline.

Schuster, Collin (M.F.A., Creative Writing [Department of English])

Ivy

Thesis directed by Assistant Professor Noah Eli Gordon

In this project I wanted to challenge myself to write a poem that conflates the act of reading with the act of tightrope walking. It started when my wife and I saw a picture of a tightrope walker. I was hooked about thinking how funambulism is like poetry. The most obvious connection is that a tightrope walker walks along lines, and a poet walks along lines. The name of my muse, my funambulist, is Ivy. He is my local muse of lines. I bring together an imagination of him as a voice and as a presence of someone who walks along lines.

The strongest influences on my work are: 1) the inspiration of funambulism to poetry; 2) Barbara Guest's poem, "Freed Color"; 3) César Vallejo's poem, "The Intrinsic Movement of Matter." I believe that the above influences have encouraged me to walk around in the space of the local, and encouraged me to write poems that branch out from here to places in language and in the mind. The last thing I will say is this: I suppose when we write poems there is not a right way to walk a line, so long as you stay on just try to stay on.

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Ivy

They hasten to make use of freed color  
who bends to no one,  
who dwells in a tent like rhythm  
continuously rolled.

— Barbara Guest [Guest, 2008, 501]

The asyndeton surging from history is more a line than a point.

— César Vallejo [Vallejo, 2011, 17]

A never-ending extent of red can only be seen in the mind;  
when the word red is heard, the color is evoked without definite  
boundaries.

— Wassily Kandinsky [Kandinsky, 1977, 33]

---

Balloonist midair among red cliffs. Muse to these lines, funambulist whose taut travel stretches from Seal Rocks to Eldorado, from Mexico to Java to Borneo. Ivy, I invoke you. I ask that you let me know when not to speak and to allow site of transformation in larger spirit of service to things loved.



---

I imagine and I animate the life of Ivy, funambulist of lines. D & I Rail is the train that took people to see him. Train tracks are lines. You can see my thinking. My thinking is a line. I begin thinking how funambulism and poems are lines, trains, past event informed to present. Walk down lines. Down a shape and color of lines. Up in the air in a shape and color of lines. Colors fill frames, trains, inspiration to others' lines. Ivy, who is my muse, my color of lines. Bringing material together and colors of lines. Mind of local colors, metaphors, archives. Walk down shapes. Down colors of lines. Concussions of rainwater. Ivy. Lines. Battery boxes. Noise.

—

Tall branches whip clouds like portraits  
arranged on a long wall. A window lets in scarce light.

I write the reception.

Threshold syllables, ammonia sheen,  
plastic table covering.

An attempt to express cause. Big as a sky says it  
and what is said.

Flatbed army truck in Ramses Square.

I understand geographical spheres through the picture.

I understand like subordination understands.

The person surfing the web, the protest in Cairo.

Budget recalls documentation, head no longer moves.

Disrupted commerce. Oil series elision. Elided

reflex. Gunpowder in the vagus nerve. Upended

relish ship. Here,

the open hand nexus

The sense of accreted proportion

addled like someone else's.

One sense uncanny as a valley,

and the other just a street.

Doggerel verse, public space, armor shapes  
mirrors make. Rehearsed nostrums, sky-like encryptions  
place the piece of negligee on the flag.

Rainspout paint fingers on this sidewalk,  
unnamed peninsula, penultimate cloud

This would be a book of history if history  
were less atmospheric, more conscripted.

Or continuity diminishes  
like acceptable snow. Or  
there is no force on the reader  
to slow down

Is elision.

Is feeling reduced

pulleyed from the sky.

The flag, the feathery bird, horizontal

thingline. Part of the wavering, patented.

The knuckled intersection, an understood air.

How do I understand geographical condition?

How do I understand someone else's relation?

What's my part in it? I click the picture.

And I understand asylum perfumes.

I click the picture and whatever's in the fabric.

Flagbarrier pulse, arterial fence, harupsicate Logos,

grandeur, manufacture, strategic tongue

knowledge schema, eat pantheon pretty rocket,

lifelike operative, butterfly, chrysalis stitch,

spotlit centigrade, surge the civilian,

pipeline, refined mood, less violent winter,

operable budget, escalate trend, value,

fabric, value, mercury gush the afternoon,

parked in square, Here a counterattack,

Here a rebuilt airstrike site, intersection, commerce,

eruptive reduction, table and window, a tree outside it

re	f
ss t	r l
may s	e o
b o	h w
e m	t e r
e	o p
s o	n e r
m e c	a h a p s
th o	s f
i o	s l o
n l	s w e
g l	p a r s
g l	a n o t
o w	h h e r
i	r h i r
o n	e w s p e
d	p
*	*
**	**
**	**
**	**

---

I'll be the conduit. I'll be the reader. I'll throw materials to the wind to watch them scatter,  
ask questions, combinations, say re-form again sparrow process, historical markers, voice,  
I'm not settling for lines, I'm inventing them and they me, taking turns, freedom of color,  
form, surge to the history, thunderous river rock, to name moments of intrigue and they  
name me, watch them, windows, midnight halyards, spray-painted moths, midnight  
infinitives.



—

And completion doesn't fool me. I know it's the calmness of the sniper who aims by decision. I consider colors of reading, the past tense, read, to have red dissonance. So I mix lemon yellow violet blue blue gray orange red maize raw umber. Mix orange yellow green blue blizzard blue red mulberry teal blue thistle. Local colors, and I've been up in the air in my mind with you, Ivy, materials in tow, so that we each now seem to form our own co-dependence, lacunae narcotics.

—  
palpitation behind the ribs and we're rising into the air  
easing over the city and striking new currents of air  
the noise of barking dogs and sounds of  
railroad trains rising distinctly into air

peaking from our basket  
thirteen-thousand feet and rising  
to say heaven seemed a reality

then ominous as torrents of rain, lightning,  
hands cinched and faces white as chalk  
that numbness of eighteen degrees

to discard weight to try to bring the balloon down  
that near death sound at thirty-six thousand feet  
and then only to be returned to the earth again

---

Ivy walked the straight and narrow for eighty-two years. Once when he lost his footing, he fell seventy-five feet to land in a pile of bricks. Service tied up, power lines down. Bus system comes to a halt. Treadled sewing machine. Inducted to aviation hall of fame, Brown Palace Hotel. But who cares about that now, says Ivy.

---

D & I railroad derailed by snowdrifts. Furnished current to residents. Twelve cars click into canyon. Marooned and blizzards and way back when, behind one window, the definition of another. And then it was the time everyone came to listen to Dukes of the Dusty Discs on Saturday nights. And then, way back when, says Ivy, our clocks struck ten through visible escapements.

—  
How to be a funambulist.

Either histories of a place or fire hydrants gone haywire.

Either Brando muses silently or funambulists go crazy.

My surprise is yours or their surprise is nothing.

The framework holds or the fish isn't so much the letter.

Either I see it or don't see it, or porous is proneness or a line to dress for winter.

Either this line or that one. Either don't fall, or don't fall.

Talk to talk talk. Jaque mate. Jaque mate.

—  
A tightrope walker, A candle with fire.

to read between lines   toe the line   music bar-line  
line break   walked a hard line   top of the line

lines keeping in line   lining a pocket   watch a line up

easily in line with it   puts their neck on the line  
neon signs   sign on dotted lines   red windows and green lines

red windows and green lines   windows and lines

—  
engine of progress mechanical horse, gaining  
steam, mechanical horse

third-class passenger first-class passenger  
railroad car Globeville Disaster, terminal —

walk it down like a viaduct a lit up coal bin  
landscape's foreground cut through skin

—

gaining

steam

brakes

tinker tinker

engine

whistle

point

to vignette

stalled track

train yard

timetable

train of thought

watchtowers

no watchtowers

all along

the lifeline steeples

trestles

switched agitated freights

latex paints

slate

grey red tunnels



—  
curvable switch tie strip track magnet switch motor & tie mount flange lubricator

rail braces rail bars pewter guard rails durable bumper flex track weathered

unweathered aluminum rail nickel silver rail insulated rail joiner tie plates

blackened metal spikes weathering solution mine track dummy fish plate stubs

switch bridle track expansion cork catenary mast pad roadbed section unitrack

section powered turnout big locomotive number ninety-nine left the engineer

with a worried mind midtrack crossover section magnetic uncoupler track

superelevated curve track double track easement electric turnout starter set

---

extension cord power cord selector switch (red) DC converter adapter cord

signal extension cord automatic crossing gate extension cable turnout machine

siding set inside loop track set switch motor cross tie expandable track

flexible track tie reverse loop set rack rail holder wheel block lighted track

---

I want to be a funambulist. In addition to misgivings of documentation, I serve a malady  
then, Ivy, I watch mountains grow. And the lines are mine  
in the pencil-shaved lights of spring.

—

that parallels don' exist in the reality of the universe point

so it's important to record everything point

one thing after another, lines corbelled and quarreled point

Carmen and the devil and a Wabash Cannonball point

curled in the midrib of lights points

—

If K ascertains that colors have a spiritual dimension, the movement of colors in a spiritual domain, how does this spiritual aspect, what he calls the inner sounding of color, the inner need, which G riffs off of to say inner sound, how does this inner sounding of color or this inner need of color its noise of color its movement relate to my interest in local coloring, place, in finding stuff and naming it, frames through a sign of color, lines, railroads, particularly colors of red as they evoke reading, as K places them in his concert of color, his center, and one question is how can I tie things together and shape them, together

—

green red error red

err on side of

red green

scratch surface

I only scratched lightly

nonetheless the record

a green red

delay

a concussion

a red elbow

with a then and then

a line then a train

and then

—

stories      time exposures      colorful noise      performance      color  
red tickets      schedules      a kite up in the air      sunset strips      walks like a waterfowl  
anti-fear      blue railroad

compelled to change      friction      terrain      windows      a water wheel      a repetitive  
locomotion      in motion      painted surface      fleck of colors      shapes      Ivy's monologue      a red  
house      and to fress with a crackling line

---

Crucible of material drifts from substation to substation. Misgiving of documentation, omission, what gets away from. Extrapolations of clouds. This is the picture of the crocodile crawling from the sea. This is the eight-day and hour strike clock strikes full on the hour. Here are burn marks on the projector. And this here is the movie, but this over here, this, this is a shovel.

---

Today rain language is a stumblebum. Today rain language is sour owlshit. Today rain language vomits on its piano. Today it's resistance and tomorrow, habitué. Sheperded by pulling wires, cafeterias, gravy trains, agape. A picture is an ellipse. Throughout human galore, oh Gloria. Traced hillside accumulations. Hallucination. The past is a puppet fish mouth; it's not a reductive paragraph.

—

Materia of elided L's

—

Joined Thayer & Noyes Circus as an aerialist

—

Kept things in motion wearing an invisible throne

—

Read an essay of \_\_\_\_\_ and remembers the \_\_\_\_\_

Wanted to write with \_\_\_\_\_ and bricks and elided \_\_\_\_\_

Vintage of lines and weather of lines      and hands full of \_\_\_\_\_



---

The city authorizes lights to be installed at each of the following points:

Twenty-sixth and Pine, Twenty-seventh and Pine, Twenty-eighth and Pine, Twenty-fifth and Hill, Twenty-seventh and Hill, Twenty-eighth and Hill, Eighteenth and Bluff, Nineteenth and Bluff, Twenty-sixth and Bluff, alley on High between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets. One decorative light on each.

---

A wrecking crew moves a 28-ton transformer to a different street.

---

New lights are installed.

Tungsten light.

---

Thinking about tungsten I want to incorporate V's words about smashing ribs and killing Peruvian Indians. This can be a cross-cultural moment for America and if there is not enough room for each displacement meditation, there can be noise. Displacement meditation and aforementioned contortion, era of train keening velvet, sails billowing out in letters, in kilograms

—

Ivy walked across undulant blanchings in the sky. I must try, he said midair, and took a small triangle from his pocket. I'm no embalmer, says he.

Tightropes 'cross mountains. No candles no lanterns. Measured steps, allotropic enjambments.

Redressible enjambments hubs in hunches of stripped down cauterized underpinned tension.

—

Lines.

A sudden dishwasher. A glint of larynx scrim.

Diaphonous fur tuft and satisfaction.

The awls deliquesce on farmsteads.

I think about a color of reading, the past tense.

To have red.

---

Page advertisement for the Darrell Sanitarium Corporation. Bills itself as a home for invalids. Orificial surgery is a specialty and the staff offers special treatment for chronic rectal disease that surpasses any extant. Darrell advertises that removing 'the cause' cures all diseases peculiar to women. Sanitarium is at the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Detroit Place, one block from City Park on Colfax Avenue line.

—

Someone took footage with cormorants on waves. Someone took footage with horses on waves. Noctilucent clouds draped blue. Someone took footage of those. Night beckons shovel beacons and evaporative coils. Abridgement? A month long catches them all with slashes of sea. Someone says, Ivy says, put that peg next to its gramophone. It's too late to test that line now that we're in the middle of it.

—

noise

angle of incidence gigahertz

prime formula

transmission coefficient

thickness theta

conductivity parameter

micrometer aluminum

figure chart

temperature

nominal bareness primer

diffusive paint white

permeability roughness

equivalence zinc-plated current

—  
epoxy compound tapered spillover

triangle number seven

subreflector support leg

mirror

chromate primer wave

electromagnetic sub

subtraction decibel

polarization serial expansion

incidence angle

substitution confusion unit

acrylic urethane-based paint

triangle no. five no. six

thirty degree angle

middle curve criterion film

thinner result number four

perforated panel

—  
  
Here's a poem.

It's called Dreadnought Rust Bucket.

It's inspired by barges on the Yangtze River where I've never set foot.

It's full of downhearted blues, and islands of trash.

Waste leaps on it like bouquets of orchids.

Gravid sky becomes subtracted numbers.

Time was still a double-headed monster.

Proust got his head chopped off in the starviewater.

Owl eyes on me.

Parliament owls blinked in the honey.

It's the end of it and that's the end of it.

That's not the end of it.



I spent a day fishing riffles on the Marias where Lewis and Clark mistook it for a branch of the Missouri in 1805, and in 1995, Mitch's dad slowed the car to a halt and challenged any denigration of the Blackfeet.

Here are my impressions.

Or it is given to me to see waste can be its own praise, provided shards in the back of a hospital go lustrous green.

Like in the poem or the dragon wing, I saw liquid nitrogen breathe in the evening.

Acknowledgment and praise and wanting to leave nothing out.

—

Circular red rain background. I walk it down. Red blue hands. Blue volcanoes. Scratching directly onto film's surface. The indigo field, an orange fence, and spheres that crumble out of lenses. Imparadised by the eyes, Oh Beatrice. Imparadised by the eyes.

What, when, where, what's consuming, when's the performance, where's the balloon, what's the train schedule, when's the parallel missing, where's the ticket, what's duration, when or how does V zoom toward parallels, where are the lines, what's painted

When is the hawk chained to the wrist, where's the Bastille, what tent and what redness, what's the impetus, when to bounce off of plexiglass, where's the reassurance, what do you mean poetry's what you want to serve

—  
  
The conversation like a gap between Spring and little yellows.

That the poems come flooding back.

Washed lights in apricots, sliced almonds, allusions, whisper in the occlusions, pressure,  
wedge, law of wedges, the law of the wedgy.

Being there like macerated breads, stretched out duration like what's said, and what else is  
said.

—

Yesterday an American walked across Niagara Falls. It was picked up by news channels as the new daredevil's work. They put a spotlight on Wallenda, but I'd rather put a spotlight on the Uyghur people in China, where for them, being on a tightrope is centuries old.

And performing tricks in air is centuries old. Such as Crane Stance or Sleeping On The Rope.

This one's called Rope Dope. This one's called The Blindfold.

This one is I Walked Across the Messina Straight, over two miles.

Steel Wire over the Sea.

—  
Ivy on his rope says may I present to you

The Surreal Arrow, The Dog

May I present to you Supersonic Eagle, Furious Neutron

the Liquid Queen, the Rainbow Killer

this is Ghost Puppet Oyster, Aimless Boomerang

the Skilled Yellow Power, Venus Messenger, Angry Flea

Demon Heavy, Dogger Timely, Ice Psycho

the Eastern Tiger, The Doctor

—  
May I present to you

Brutal Dust Albatross, Jean Genet

Sidney Goldfarb, The Cringe, Forsaken Torpedo

Forgotten Lobster, Strawberry Ranger, Maureen Owen

Moving Spear, the Wrench

Vital Scorpion, Furious Mustard,

The Grim King, Grenade Face

This is Hungry Eagle, Jupiter Dog,

Locomotive Hidden

Rock Electron, The Skilled Leather, Cheerful Messenger

Headless Electron, Old Ostrich, Vital Devil

The Persistent Oyster, Ghostly Ranger, Freaky Skunk

Forsaken Anaconda, The Boomerang

---

MONDAY SEVEN ACTS A DAY

TUESDAY SEVEN ACTS A DAY

WEDNESDAY SEVEN ACTS A DAY

THURSDAY SEVEN ACTS A DAY

FRIDAY SEVEN ACTS A DAY

SATURDAY SEVEN ACTS A DAY

SUNDAY SEVEN ACTS A DAY

—

Here's a harnessed balloon. Upside down, arms outstretched. Midair, seven minutes. Let Lindberg be the pilot. Five hundred spectators. Six hundred feet across, five hundred eighty-two feet up. 3-8 inch cable, take thirty two guy ropes, no net. Ivy's got cloth shoes with rosin soles. He's got camel hide soles.

—

Ivy's been up in balloons and down in parachutes since the flood. He is having a benefit at Elitch Gardens. He is having a balloon race.

There will be a display of fireworks in the evening. And he will drop down from the sky, clothed in fire.

—

stress test a line, wrought-iron gate, chasm, pneumatic tube, poof

—

The straight line is an illusion. I crisscross over cliffs. Impetus of points on continuum. Arsenic pudding. Careful steps a limbo, I'm shedding my sweatshirts, I'm taking off my socks, my cardigan, jacket, suit, long underwear, blouse, lipstick, can't keep me in line or challenge my desire, taking off all forms of mercy, shedding my yellow beak, my lines, penchants for abruption, Ivy says, I'm taking them off.



—  
all the lines branch out from here

	diluent lines
condensed continuous	whose line is it
vertiginous	line of sarcasm

ideology precision	transit line
unavailable unasked	from transom
slick of gas, reddish sheen	delineate

encryption modesty & laudanum	lining what lies
pulled wool over eyes	

restrictive interruptive attributable embedded disintegrated  
colorful ones

silent lines	ticket please	a ticket
--------------	---------------	----------

voluntary disjunctive apt and

---

I consume lines like plantain chips with ahi with palm of artichoke grape tomato avocado in red sangria with double espresso chocolate sponge cake with cream. With a mango mojito and a red beer. Just consuming them.

---

Burn marks on reel of projector, first moving picture that was seen here: The Empire State Express. Seventeen seconds. You can jump from your seat. This is a train bowling into the seats. You're out of your seat.

Shattered stain glass windows. Eight-day and hour strike clocks striking full on the hour, once on the half. Visible escapements, beveled glass, movies, reruns.

---

Ivy says a long sunset is awash in fire. Paramour, parameter. Speed hustle, for only then will I give you my rose.

—

Stockholders met previous to meeting to speak bluntly. Junk electric line, secure franchise. Guarantee it. File the brief. Judge's orders result in no decision until bus line is sued. Rinn & Connell represent the plaintiff. It's a bond default. It's all over the papers. Foreclosure sale. Sham and subterfuge, replacement trolley cars, bad faith agreements. Junk electric lines, secure the franchise.

—

unremitting lines — activities — Baldwin Locomotives —

a Galloping Goose — short and long clicks — our telegraph  
agent on duty — Jimmy J. Calhoun — knows clocks are the regulators

touring a train yard I see a jacket around a burner — railway expresses  
Paul says steam goes to the pistons — then locomotion — engines

cars of cast-iron — persuasions of water tanks — fill stations —  
ties soaked in creosote — locomotive torches

—

Lines are introductions, says Ivy, ostensible airwaves, provisional elocutions in jellyfish waters.

Red centers.

—

letters signed on socle

yellow flairs

sun purple snows

crystal snows

vesper reds

spilled red

crosshatching clouds

—

crosshatching lanterns

—

Reading about train parts, putting together a layout, noise

—  
stock car tank car flatcar wheel stop bumping post switch stand operating

ground throw remote control black tie turnout track snap switch terminal

joiner

nickel-silver rail crossing brown tie concrete tie 90 degree crossing

curved section decoder equipped nickel-silver turnout black roadbed

track system track uncoupler turnout mechanism curved circuit track clip

contact wire interrupter track suppression set bridge a tower mast with light

beveled switch pad ballast spreader soldering tool radius tool spur track sand

buffer oval set of micro-track clamp flex link tubing wire harness light timber

on stone pile

snap together track adapter pack tinplate standard gauge track

—  
streamline track crossing setrack curved track narrow gauge flex track

nickel silver bulk rail side mounting turnout motor trolley wire bracket wire

hanger wire with lug for joiners grid shelving suspension hook

turnout linkage switch stand kit lit volt turnout machine kit switch stand

with frame base black track tack track (branch lines) insulated rail joiners

for code 70 rail

curvable left hand turnout curvable right hand turnout nickel

silver crossing wheel stops feeder tracks old time track bumpers

contact track

isolation track crossbar-style bumper track end piece curved track

single pole conductor wire switch stand lantern road material sheet

springs

—  
Because unified is a different way to say look at the nub of the problem.

Colors ring out rhythms. Circumference is a problem.

Voices, Ivy, electrocardiograms flowing.

And may you still dream across your pencil-shaved lights in spring.

Your strange rains.

Your long cadre of mirrors.

Gab of damage.



—  
If the machinery breaks down, take a horse and a buggy.

Take a suitcase

& fill it with butter.

Put on some sport-a-bout clothes.

Pickup the groceries.

Seven days a week, 70 cents one-way.

The all day excursion to Denver, to Eldorado,  
to Boulder.

One dollar 20 cents.

Your kids ride for free.

—

A change of grade is made in the street and it takes workers to do it.

For the interests of the community, we are requesting that Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ purchase the  
\_\_\_\_\_

and we are at the same time requesting to sell \_\_\_\_\_ of the same  
\_\_\_\_\_ to Ms. So and So.

—  
Railroad companies, utilities.

Rights, privileges to be obtained.

As in Sweets and Montgomery. Ratify appointee. Take chance.

Dismantle. Petition appeal. Force bid. Operation. Writ of Mandamus.

To renovate the existing road. The blueprint is the dated frontispiece  
traced from the book—an inlay of vellum.

—  
mess up official timeline to show sandwich partial sandwich / offered outside interred in  
official record / silence friendship walker worker /

resistance, the magic to the fruit / and even though a document gets abridged  
the remainders are no longer chronological / I want to cut-in with a new relation

---

Denver & Interurban. Line to Eldorado. D & I arrives from Denver.

Alembic of doctrinaire. Cars taken off schedule. Rerouted passengers.

A wreck at the Globeville. City & Louisville protests abandonment of lines.

Ordered to cease operations.

Granted permits. Judge ordered to abandon lines. Service discontinued.

Ordered to sell. Sold.

---

And Ivy says today is not summarized into any zilch events. Into a squelch, a spleen, a trading card. Locomotion emanates extensions, pegs, obliquities. I won't be interviewed like a slinky on a stair, he says, Big Dipper tacked on wall, uninvented. I won't speak today. I'm just a little thistle death symbol. And I'm no fun. A dissolved tablet ledger. A lecture on attitude. An interview on attitude. The puppet fish mouth.

—

A tightrope walker, a candle with fire. Half-organized letter in Ivy's trunk was found as never sent. It reads:

Who is the speaker that speaks through me? Who through you? Sped too hastily? I've come to sit. The air is fragrant. I've set a trap, a line, a table, some fragments. Here are figments. Goya's room. Figs. Spiders. A soundproof dragon. Here's to stars that coruscate, Saturdays, acts down pat, a tinderbox cortex, awls (owls) deliquesce, secret of a siren, Simon, extension don't preserve nothin'.

—  
  
Steady, unsteady. Don't want to be the embalmer. One lantern to another.

One reader to one vertigo halftone.

—  
  
broken line spilled off roof / sprayed by wind and cascades downward

unfigured, slapdash, extension, stop, lapse, entanglement, stunned

by disturbance, which I might call spirit or instability

or bees making honey in a lion's head

—

millimeter duration counterclockwise mode red

quadrant radiant Ka-band diode pulse

activity foam material micrometer component

axial transmission line load-housing setup

plate dish hatchdoor color

red peel off incidence plane

alternate line concealed line clarity line

permission



—  
Marooned passengers.

Service tied up. Small arms fire. Knowledge  
of practical stresses. So much more to include.

Ivy stands on his head. Eldorado Springs,  
Spanish for golden or gilded one, Spanish  
for pleasure dome, crown poem, pot of gold.

Utes settled in Eldorado to be protected  
from winter. Pioneers explored  
the mountains for gulch mining, land, livestock,  
timber, and water. There was a school house  
named Hawthorne. Warm spring water.

Planted walnut trees. Hired bullwhackers,  
cattle drivers, meat market, gold mines.

The gristmills and squatters. Gardens and thermal pools.

Beehives. Venison steaks, sawmills.

---

Irrigation. Speculation for profit. Desirable claim.

Spiritualists holding séances and dances. Taylor  
sold his interest to the Moffat Lake Resort Company.

I'm going to wear this pencil down to its nub.

Pools, picnics, pavilions, and dance halls.

Railroads, trolley cars, spurring things on.

Bring the people for recreation. Electric lines  
cracking. Twelve wooden cars click into canyon.

Attendance over forty thousand. 1907.

---

A new hotel. Oak staircase, rocker chairs, colored rugs.

The large stone fireplace. Brass fixtures. Pastel  
wainscoted walls, glass arch doors, white linens.

Private dining room where liquor is not served  
until '38. Porcelain basins and kerosene lamps.

No bathtubs in the bathrooms. A hint to guests  
to use the pool. And always new speculators ready  
to buy a place when previous owner is in need  
of money. Mortgaged to hilt. Flood of '38.

A canyon fire. Canyon fire.

—  
  
Frank Frazer, one of Ivy's assistants at Elitch Gardens,  
a black man, and as the balloon is ascending  
Frank's foot caught in the dragrope  
and lifted into the air

one foot in a noose soaring above Denver  
and everyone thinks it's part of the performance  
as he soars above the city

the author of one account has this to say:  
the fact that he was a colored man lent  
a picturesque aspect to the show

the snow is coming down in big flakes  
outside the library where I'm writing this

how is anything about that picturesque?

—  
Displeased at the idea of them sleeping.

Governor Evans got word to raise a regiment, put up posters and started recruiting.

The hundred-day men, the Bloodless-third, at first light opening on command.

White Antelope mowed down with his arms folded over his chest.

Black Kettle raised an American flag and there was no need to worry.

There was no need to run. To flee up creek.

To dig to hide. Proceeded to potshot them at will.

Proceeded to cut off nose, ears, testicles.

—  
  
Ivy's monologue.

I am permitted to name my own moons. Here are the names of the moons: Horror Under the Big Top, The Escaped Maniac, Medicine, Tree Grows in Borneo, Strung Along, The Fright of the Silvery Moon, Angels Fear to Tread, Last Head, Mutant, Funambulist, The End, The Mad Journey, What the Dog Dragged In, Death Wagon, Island of Death, Raven Berserk, Menace of Metallo, Congo Bill Dies at Dawn, Surprise Package, Pyromaniac Lives Here, Doom To You, Reluctant Temporal Gateway

—  
  
I'll take out the tape measure and measure  
the dead hand.

I'll take out the tape measure and measure  
the dead neck.

I'll take out the tape measure and measure  
the dead back and foot.

And the other foot. I'll take the tape measure  
and measure

the dead elbow, the wound on the belly,

the articles of clothing, the removed brain.

Cutting out the ribcage. Tag the toe.

Pump out the blood into the sink. Cover

the body in white sheets, and cart it out the room.

Achilles dragged Hector 'round the citadels,

but his body remained untouched.

Siphoning slop into the adjoining bucket.

The tempo of the mop.

Consider this. Watch this.

Record this.



—

what is the

subject

bulletin umbrella

subjects

syrupey gray muted rib

subjects

pulverized objective popsickle stick

subjects

—

Ivy on his rope and everything branches out, desiccated sun discs, auburn eyelets

—

It's important to record everything, especially if everything is part of the succession

—

Or whirls of scrutiny comes to the mile of milk, magnetizing floral displays  
in small parts, crypts of ordinary mint zigzag cut off shapes, fractionous shine  
in classified twine, the risen old slang codgers too decorous for television incise wherein  
and sizzled wax face dispirits swerve knells on television primes

A kingdom says the scrivener

—

King of lines romanticized as indomitable, intransigent, compeer of gore. He that embodies stubborn defenses. Reeks of conformance to pride. Hearse drawn by four horses. Has funeral pomp. A stock of readers. Appreciable urgency. Can avoid anything sentimental and set a story straight. Wear truces. Wear accomplishment. A semblance of affidavits. Defamatory hearsay, settlement, antiseptic consonance, cloudless affection.

Squeeze boxelder bug's carapace in napkin. To hold onto what engenders a napkin. Who says thought is dentition? Demagogic twaddle squeeze, squeeze sycophancy, squeeze flattery, squeeze synonym, squeeze taste of napkin gut, poem not begun with a feeling to like it, pink clouds with geese, a stereophonic, vascular sky.

If you're a line for feeling or engender a larynx transplant.

If a commercial of endurance is pretty then drive away.

The sunset is a crazed neck.

—

keeping watch on letters to read by like consistencies of caramelized sauce, like hollow-eyed Boris Karloff, terrine of oiled dressing, piquancy worth salivating over, more baffled than ambitious, more bleak than caffeine, when the shirt pocket meets the aneurismal pen

S      social voice

J      definitions

C      urgency quotient

A      blades of grass

J

J      pleasure of the world

K      naked arms that touch

A

T      asyndeton

L      something about windows

—

lantern to read by, history, Ivy, train, chrysalis stitch, black light, windshield wiper, tunnel ahead resembles urn, drive over median, take right on so to speak, left on syntax, U-turn, desire, cul-de-sac, tollbooth, turn south on 98, rusted Chevy, wrecking crane, boulevard, turnpike, putter, lay on horn, left lane, whiplash, crash, try, fail, loop back, go back, loop back, right on off ramp, negligence, forklift, dump truck, fairground, Water World, wheat field, transport to territory, slip past border, punctured tire, patch up, spare part, tail pipe, squad car, gas up, green light, exit on Rundell, switch lane, gun it, put on blinker, switch lane, park car, start car, move car, turn around, buckle up, rearview mirror, up the road, go

—

What's in Ivy's head? A thanatophoric field. A canary in a coal mine. A Baptist preacher with his clothes on. A poem called pretext. A poem called opacity. Ivy says satisfaction compresses into red cathodes and blue ones.

Oh atmosphere of books.

I have your machinery in my yum yum.

—  
The sky is a pressure gauge, tropospheric knife, month-long photograph.

Ivy walks from cliffs ensnared by nonmiscible, whistling travels. Takes the glitterweld, gauche encounter of counter counting rope. Here is a busted jar of dragonfly milk, benefit of doubt. Here an electrochemical harangue, calm like a sniper. A sea green color. And this is the secret sea green sea. This is the line.

—

color of reading

volcano in background

green red window

iridescent

green red circular

delayed red blue

rain sluice

measure



—

needle caught

on circular red blue

iridescent

delay violet

with red in the middle

red in the middle

—  
The color of reading. Sidewalk hullabaloo, middle of freeway, metallic line, yellow divide,  
palm tree, city.

Ivy is wide-eyed. Awake. With a singing voice mode of teal balloons. Lifted above diamonds.  
Baseball diamonds. With the one-two-three of asyndetons. Ivy with the metacarpels. Ivy  
spies his little eyes. Aneurismal pendulums. Sees heaven is an inmate. Quotes that Kepler  
suggested the moon. And then waves.

Walks across understatement, brain infinitive, rainbow eyelet. Walks across red window  
vast as a staple gun in metal. Vestiges of window parallelograms.

Walks across the word manifest and decides to eat its heart out.  
Bisects its green valves. Says sing to me oh parallelogram of winds.

Camerooned nimbus! I devour you!

---

the lying city                      mendacity

the truthful city                      veracity

the famished city                      voracity

the wise city                      sagacity

the fighting city                      pugnacity

the stubborn city                      tenacity

the plain city                      simplicity

the happy city                      felicity

—

Checking to see if there's any give to the wire      checking to see if

---

trophy horn contributor

system expansion

cone leakage

loss cassegrain focal point

spillover

tripod prototype

installation plug subreflector

adjacent assemblage

cloud data

output calibration

value signal

---

pulse candle red pulse candle

fire constellate

mercury smoke

to vessel

---

waveguide attenuator

electron terminator

boundary converter

transmission of oxygen water diode

vapor bandwidth decibel

definition

—  
midrib curled them acorns cups deciduous leaves twigs clustered with  
flowers rounded fused marginal oblong branch furled fringed with scales bowl toothed  
bark a coppery oval crown not apex not circularly smooth thinking  
to ramify language to take invitation of nearly tapered slim wide  
trunks to spread moist sinuses expansion of undersurface ragged curve thin

stout irregular cup topped tardily rough and hairy reddish ones their  
striated coastal tips sharply rounded gradually a foot which bristles its thin evergreen tips  
inches going south on winter ridge and tall and long shapes stared at through wavy saucers  
through streams do letters arrive in season how  
fissured they must seem festooned lanking around room in their mossy garb

to say stay tread of breath grow seasonal rings outward periphery plated  
to bough now go on to name acorn bowl elliptical inch go on to name cup  
tooth of green thing invisible ones finding them by nook and by cranny

—

that cloud passes like glitter density, Ivy, scarlet-silk sky of nightfall to extract midriffs,  
chassis clicks, let the wrecking balls speak their diode pulses



—

free to record everything, asyndeton, conjunctions omitted, coordinating  
conjunctions gone, and oh oubliette recidivist you are now my muse, making flags  
into abbreviations, fusillade pictures, autopsies

Hark to thrones now speak.

---

Welcome to the hotel. We call it Sudden Fails. Welcome to the hotel. We call it Groan's  
Deluxe. The Esurient L. The Shithole. The Garden.

Hark to the thrones, now speak.

—  
Beleaguered opacities be tilting my solecism.

Drink to the lees to get them down.

To the dregs, to the beak.

To the very hunted down fish.

Hark to, these thrones now speak.

—  
  
Draw two parallel lines on the chalkboard and recognize at no point are these lines parallel.

They are just a little ticket, just a ticket.

They are just a ticket, a little ticket.

I must record everything that I can.

Hark to some thrones, now speak.

—

what hidden terms, counterparts, accelerations, mutual prediction, alarm bells, daredevils,  
one territory created by taking away another, place railroad smack dab at ground zero of  
the American Industrial Revolution, divestment of land, market created by dispossession,  
axiom as god as Newton, the extension machine, jarred by spaciousness, more of it, a whole  
series of explanations

Harken to thrones, now speak.

—

Plainspoken attendees

Spareness of windows

Bulbs dangling in dust windows

Pernicious light windows

Dunked ablutionary bread windows

Harken to our thrones, now speak.

—

insert

lines

coal

in tender

brass fly wheel

replacement filter

unburying

subordinated terms

I have my materials together

and there is more to go more to go

oh vertigo knoll of yellow

Hark to my thrones

now speak

—  
 Foster brings a throne Foster brings a throne  
 Foster brings a throne Foster brings a throne  
 you can's Photoshop me out, the movie will be about  
 Tim reads books on Indo-China Tim reads books  
 on Indo-China on Indo-China on Indo-China Tim  
 read a book on Japan says America dropped the bomb  
 on Hiroshima August sixth can't remember August ninth  
 we call it peace day we call it peace day we call it peace day  
 call it peace bloomer call it cocktail music Rose will  
 bring nasturtiums and some daisies Rose will bring  
 life to lift to be good to waver to lift to be good  
 Andy travelled to the Museum to lift to sing to be good  
 Mon Santos dioxin psycho throne club music Piper  
 brings her throne Piper brings her throne Piper brings the throne  
 it's an art book it's a Molotov cocktail Foster brings his throne  
 Piper brings a throne Sophia brings a throne fleet crumbs  
 Kevin brings his Hanna brings hers Amanda brings a throne  
 Addie brings a throne Nate brings a throne Nick brings a throne  
 Matt brings two Kevin brings three Kaitlin brings four  
 Eric brings a throne Askia brings a throne lung capacity  
 Aleksa doesn't get a throne Jake doesn't get a throne it's a deprivation  
 it's an outrage they are fucking pissed oh yes yes they are  
 there are no thrones left no thrones none to be had  
 it is a bungle it is a boondoggle a bellyful of swill yes it is  
 Aleksa and Jake are deprived of their thrones now we are dancing  
 check out our moves check out our moves divider vulnerable  
 morphed snow killer on the dance floor laying bombs in the suq  
 going to Mardi Gras going to Mardi Gras check us at Mardi Gras  
 check out our thrones check out our thrones no more thrones



---

Ivy takes his triangle from his pocket to strike it. And in time there are chimes of yellow triangles, blue circles, and green squares. There are chimes of green triangles, yellow circles, chimes of blue squares

---

You have to know if there's any give to the wire

People would up and die on their porches

Furnace jacket

Water pipe

Combustion chamber

—  
twelve cars click into the canyon, what's left in and what's taken, light switches, gold  
bodies, azurite and talc, Ivy walked across a lake while a band played him a waltz, put some  
triple meters back in his steps

fabric of void contracts, in force for period of twenty years, clay bellows, whistles, sluices,  
wafers, dig up the materials, the slag, a windlass

a live eagle tied to a pole at the front of the procession, gone pinioning, gone and things just  
pent up popped like tendons, twelve clicks to canyons, the what's left Inns and what's  
takens, which lines, which equations

—

furtive	—	preserved	—	imagined
presence	—	fragment of	—	cochineal
what's figured	—	piece of	—	what's flat
round	—	triangular	—	K said
what's color	—	what are the colors	—	what's red
and I read	—	dust-framed	—	colors
What Ivy does	—	walk lines	—	asyndeton
contexts	—	through wetlands	—	em dash cities
bridges	—	possessive mirrors	—	noise

—

grid	tentacles	doubt	for saying
what's	example	babble	m
what's	present that's	orchestration	even
just waiting	say	that listening	keening
velvet	from the	headland	nothing more
orchestration	insert	letter	what bolster
carried	what's painted	movies	are painted
hand painted	film is	what's burrow	buried
	espaliered		what's
dazed vertigo cachet and wuff		hear	which
what's	lining	intersection	angled
adjacent	vanishment	coral reef	eventually
one century	another	a tentacle	coincided
formaldehyde	medicine	pg. 42	
what's	the residue	another	entry
history	hybridity	bridging our city	em dash city

—

Paint red, paint, and bring this orange to follow,  
 Paint red this orange, paint and bring to follow  
 Paint, red, paint; and bring this orange to follow,  
 Paint, paint red, and bring this orange to follow,  
 Paint, paint and red, bring this orange to follow,  
 Paint, to follow, paint red and bring this orange,  
 And to follow, paint, bring red, paint this orange,  
 And to follow, paint, paint red, bring this orange  
 And paint red, paint to follow, bring this orange,  
 Paint to follow, paint orange this, and bring red,  
 To follow, orange this, paint and bring red, paint  
 Orange this, bring and paint to follow red, paint  
 Bring and paint, orange, bring to follow, red this,  
 To follow, paint and bring orange, paint this red,  
 Paint to follow, bring orange, and paint this red,  
 Paint and bring orange, paint to follow this red,  
 Orange, red paint, paint and bring this to follow,  
 Paint, orange, bring, and paint this red, to follow,  
 Paint orange, paint, and bring this red to follow,  
 Paint orange, paint, and bring this red to follow.

— for L. Z.

—

Within

this

ten-block

radius

five

crypto-

morphic

rudders

form

five

yellow

boats

starviewater

honey

a poem is

that

knife's

backslidingplace

kayenta cliff

orange

furwind

I serve

their malady



—  
City of derangement and city of intuitive ravines. Pluvial cheeks.

Vermilion wreaths. Conversation in copper. Candle wicks through sepia  
with motions of triangles. Riffle to city to slice through abruption. City

of helmets, conspicuous disks. Of the green vase that reflects hesitation.

Walker across isthmus. Half formed V's existing in air, insteps of eyelashes.

I can sit here and scribble lines about moons and gills of fish. Reddish-  
colored cliffs. Or I can erase them. And often I do just that.

—

pulse rain sluice

rain sluice hand

foot white sink

foot green

neck ribcage

volcano

window needle

purple

blue brain

white sheet

o red of a middle

flashlight stalactite

traced grain focal

ventricle      o red of a middle

when that name of a person is Dr. Jon

or joy      ion action or lantern

or intone or children or Anton and Vaughn [o the red of a middle]

swept a lens camera, and then swept an angle

---

I expected paint. Expected macerated bread. Inspected helium in the air. I was experiencing a jar of helium rum. Grammar of expectation. Was experiencing an argument. Inspecting a chip of paint. Expecting expectation. The stairwell. The hot-battered paint. A list of stuffed landscapes. A cake. Was experiencing dead king paint. Litany crumbs fobbed off in sashay crumbed concrete. Turned obsolete in barnacle glass. I was expecting tape, inspected it, experienced starlight. And then just took away the tape. Expected it to lacerate.

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